"To promote Christian ideals for agriculture and rural life; to interpret the spiritual and religious values which inhere in the processes of agriculture and the relationships of rural life; to magnify and dignify the rural church; to provide a means of fellowship and cooperation among rural agencies: *Toward a Christian Rural Civilization.*"

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Enduring Values in Rural Life

George Washington

"It will not be doubted that, with reference either to individual or national welfare, agriculture is of primary importance." - From his last Message to Congress

PRESENTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE of FOREIGN MISSIONS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH U. S.

Thomas Jefferson

"Let the farmer forevermore be honored in his calling; for they who labor in the earth are the chosen people of God."

Daniel Webster

"The cultivation of the earth is the most important labor of man. Unstable is the future of the country which has lost its taste for agriculture. If there is one lesson of history that is unmistakable, it is that national strength lies very near the soil."

Theodore Roosevelt

"The great rural interests are human interests, and good crops are of little value to the farmer unless they open the door to a good kind of life on the farm."

"If there is one lesson taught by history, it is that the permanent greatness of any state must ultimately depend more upon the character of its country population than upon anything else. No growth of cities, no growth of wealth, can make up for loss in either the number or the character of the farming population...." - From a letter to Liberty Hyde Bailey in 1908 in setting up the Country Life Commission

"No nation has ever achieved permanent greatness unless this greatness was based on the well-being of the great farmer class, the men who live on the soil; for it is upon their welfare, material and moral, that the welfare of the rest of the nation ultimately rests...."

Kenyon L. Butterfield

"A Christian rural civilization will value intangible good far above tangible goods. We must unlearn the fallacy that civilization consists in the possession of things, in the invention and the use of conveniences, or even in

the refinements of life. We are not to condemn things in themselves. It is difficult for the underprivileged masses of the Orient to share spiritual good unless they possess enough material goods for physical vigor. Nor do we condemn the progressive American farmers for desiring and demanding comfort. But we would insist upon a reign of good will, an application of moral law to daily work, an emphasis upon the character and cultural values of the farmer's experiences. The spiritual is not to be separated from the economic but is to transfuse and transform it." - From "The Christian Enterprise Among Rural People," Cokesbury Press

Warren Hugh Wilson

"I believe that the family farm will survive as a domestic industry. This belief cannot be proven, because it is of the future, and no man knows what the future has for those who follow. I believe it because of the dependence of man upon domestic animals and plants which require personal care; but for another reason. The soul of man needs the spiritual intercourse with nature which the farm assures. There he dwells in the midst of the influence of God's creation. The farm is the perfect school of personal character in which the poorest of men may learn. While, therefore, so many human beings are poor, for whom the farm-home furnishes food and shelter, we may believe that the farm as an industrial form will persist. Capitalistic organization might possess itself of much of the best lands in the river valleys of the world, but the time is not in sight even of the most agile imagination when all the countrymen shall be gathered into cities. At present of the billion and a half people on earth, at least a billion and a quarter are dwelling upon the land and tilling it, herding cattle and tending their crops." - From "Rural Religion and the Country Church," Fleming H. Revell Company

Liberty Hyde Bailey

"We are so accustomed to these essentials--to the rain, the wind, the soil, the sea, the sunrise, the trees, the sustenance--that we may not include them in the categories of the good things, and we endeavor to satisfy ourselves with many small and trivial and exotic gratifications; and when these gratifications fail or pall, we find ourselves helpless and resourceless. The joy of sound sleep, the relish of a sufficient meal of plain and wholesome food, the desire to do a good day's work and the recompense when at night we are tired from the doing of it, the exhilaration of fresh air, the exercise of the natural powers, the mastery of a situation or a problem,--these and many others like them are fundamental satisfactions, beyond all pampering and all toys, and they are of the essence of goodness. I think we should teach all children how good are the common necessities, and how very good are the things that are made in the beginning."

"We come out of the earth and we have a right to the use of the materials; and there is no danger of crass materialism if we recognize the original materials as divine and if we understand our proper relation to the creation, for then will gross selfishness in the use of them be removed. This will necessarily mean a better conception of property and of one's obligation in the use of it. We shall conceive of the earth, which is the common habitation, as inviolable. One does not act rightly toward one's fellows if one does not know how to act rightly toward the earth." - From "The Holy Earth," Macmillan and Company; reprinted with the kind permission of the author.

Henry C. Taylor

"Many a farmer enjoys driving a team, watching the clean soil turned over by the plow, watching the crops grow, and caring for livestock. So satisfying is this life to many a man that he will continue his activities as a farmer year after year, even though he knows that men in other occupations are winning very much more money than he, for he is wise enough to recognize that he is paid in direct satisfactions as well as in money, and that much of the richness of his life is due to things which money cannot buy." - From "Agricultural Economics," 1919 Edition, page 15

Charles Josiah Galpin

"The rural home and family stand to-day, therefore, before church and nation as the American type. The city family, much as we may deplore the fact, has long ceased to be the type family. The farm home is holding the family idea in the nation, almost at the last ditch, it must be conceded. This is the first basic reason why rural life has national social significance, why the farmer has a role of honor in American Christendom." - From "The Rural Church," Christian Rural Fellowship Bulletin No. 37

Oliver Edwin Baker

"I would that the rural youth of to-day could see agriculture as the great preserver of culture, and the earth as the mother of mankind....If civilization is to survive, the young people must achieve a sense of the continuity of life; they must realize that the individual is only a link in an endless chain which reaches back through geologic ages. I would that the rural youth could see in front of them the opportunity to build not an urban but a new rural civilization--a civilization founded not on selfishness but on brotherly affection, in which the economic objective is to produce sufficient for everyone while conserving the natural resources, and in which the social objective is service rather than vanity."

"For the better utilization of our arable land I have full faith only in the family farm, and in the family farm only in the case of the family with continuity of life and occupancy of the land. And continuity of family life and of land occupancy is dependent on a philosophy of life, or, if you prefer, on religious belief. There will not be, I fear, much better utilization of farm land in the United States until more farmers pass the farms on to their sons, and these sons continue to operate the farms, expecting, in turn, to pass the farms on to their sons. The rapid decline in the birthrate associated with the urbanization of the people suggests strongly that land and life are closely related. It is becoming clear that the land is the foundation of the family and that the family is the foundation of the State. - From "The National Welfare and Rural Urban Migration in the U.S.A.," Christian Rural Fellowship Bulletin No. 4

Thomas Jesse Jones

"In view of the ever-increasing control of social processes by urban standards and ideals, it is emphatically important to recognize the vital contributions of rural communities, always the primary sources of population and the guardians of the Holy Earth."

Walter Clay Lowdermilk

"XI. Thou shalt inherit the holy earth as a faithful steward, conserving its resources and productivity from generation to generation. Thou shalt protect thy fields from soil erosion and thy hills from overgrazing by thy herds, so that thy descendants may have abundance forever. If any shall fail in this stewardship of the land, his fertile fields shall become sterile stones and gullies, and his descendants shall decrease and live in poverty or vanish from the face of the earth." - From "An Eleventh Commandment"

"Only upon the conservation and wise use of our basic resources of land, water, and of the spirit of the people, can we maintain the human values of high standards of living, thinking, opportunity, freedom, justice and faith in the destiny of our civilization." - From "Reflections in a Graveyard of Civilizations," Christian Rural Fellowship Bulletin No. 45

Dwight Sanderson

"Finally, and most important, we must recognize that no other institution can take the place of the Christian Church as a source of those ideals of life which give religious sanction to loyalty to the common good--to the community--rather to self or particular interests. The ideals of its Founder who conceived the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man as the norm of human relationships, and who thought man's relation to man should be the expression of his loyalty to their common Father, will ever furnish the strongest spiritual dynamic for the best community life, for the whole community movement is but one means toward the realization of His ideal of the Kingdom of God on earth." - From "The Farmer and His Community," page 135

Mark A. Dawber

"Civilization went down because of the inability of the pagan cities to withstand the onslaught of the barbarians. The new civilization was founded upon a rural Christianity. The best that remains in our present civilization is based upon a rural culture. It is important that we remember this historical fact. Whenever a civilization has allowed its rural life to deteriorate, that civilization has perished. This is not due to an economic factor but to a cultural factor."

Thomas Alfred Tripp

"If the Church has any power in the world to-day it will speak out against the exploitation of soil resources. It will do so, not on the basis of what will pay nor of the appeal to posterity, but on the basis of a religious motivation. It will teach men to have a reverence for the Creator of the land and, therefore, a respect for natural forces. Under such a religious view men may be led into an appreciation of the soil and farmers may be brought back to the pioneers' love of their own land. If everyone can come to recognize the hand of God in the land-economy of this continent, there is hope for our most vital natural resource." - From "Advance," November 1, 1939

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